

storms. In the past decade, light rail and freight expansion have worked. Also, passenger trains are two to eight times more fuel-efficient than planes, and much more economical.

The Pacific Northwest Corridor, which is run by Amtrak and the state governments of Oregon and Washington, has seen a dramatic increase over the past decade, after infusion of state money was allowed to build a high-speed rail corridor. Also, sleeping cars, which are often referred to as archaic, and for train-bus alone, experienced an increase of 19 percent over last year's statistics. February of 2002 was the sixth straight month that rail ridership was up and air ridership went down.

Amtrak handles 40 percent of all traffic in the New York-Washington, DC, corridor. If high-speed rail corridors were developed in Florida, the southeast and Texas, per se, they could garner up to 20 to 30 percent of all traffic in that area. Ridership from 1978 to 2001 increased 24 percent, while funding was drastically cut by almost 80 percent.

What should be done? I believe a one-cent tax should be instituted on all gasoline purchases, as well as a one-and-a-half cent tax on all domestic airplane tickets, which would give Amtrak a sustained source of income coming out to about \$3.1 billion a year.

Also, Amtrak should be given \$50 billion grants spread over two years to replace antiquated signals, rails, equipment and technology. Congress shall reintroduce the \$12 billion high-speed rail initiative, and will follow the DOT's report on high-speed rail corridors, which indoctrinated eleven corridors in 33 states. A system of 80 percent matching funds will be established to match funds invested by state and local government; because, right now, states and local governments get zero percent matching funds, while for highway they get almost a hundred percent.

An independent committee will be formed to find timesaving and performance-enhancing changes, such as customs agents will be put aboard international trains, and will check passenger IDs at each respective station that the passenger gets on, instead of at the border, which causes a backlog of about three hours.

Also, mail cars, which in the status quo are put on after the train is boarded in the yard, which costs another two hours for each train, will now be added to the train when it is put together in the yard, so there will be a flow from the station to point B.

Thank you very much.

REGARDING CHILD LABOR

(By Colin Robinson, Marcia Lo Monoco, Sarah Kunz, and Delia Kipp)

COLIN ROBINSON. Good morning, Congressman Sanders and Professor Gutman.

Our testimony is going to begin with a description of the problem of child labor, and then we're going to move on to an explanation of the causes of child labor, then possible solutions, and wrapping up with what the Child Labor Education Act, CLEA, has done in Guatemala.

MARCIA LO MONOCO. Exploitative child labor is when children work under conditions that are hazardous to their physical and/or mental health, when they are deprived of an opportunity to get an education, and not paid a liveable wage. Once children begin to work, sometimes as early as the age of 4, their chances to change the future are very small.

It is common to think that child labor is a problem in Third World countries, but it is also a very real problem in the United States. One million children in the U.S. pick the produce we eat every day. There are an estimated 250,000 sweat shops in American cities. But child labor is a global problem.

The most prevalent type of child labor is agricultural work. Children work in fields for long, hard hours, and are exposed to hazardous chemicals. Children also work in manufacturing, construction, mining, the sex trade, and bonded labor. Bonded labor is when children are sold by their parents to manufacturers, where they are sometimes chained to their machines or locked in workrooms. Child labor is a global problem which prevents educational opportunities and continues the cycle of poverty and deprivation.

SARAH KUNZ. Child labor is one of the most heinous human rights violations occurring today. It can be thought of as a fire sparked by the oppressive cyclical nature of capitalism and fueled by corporate greed and corporate imperialism. American megacorporations such as Nike, Disney and Universityware exploit Third World economies through promises of mass employment. Instead, mass poverty ensues, due to subpoverty wages.

The frightening phenomenon that is globalization creates homogenous global markets driven by low wages and high profit margins. New global trade agreements and organizations such as NAFTA, WTO, the IMF, and pending free-trade areas of the Americas in effect declare labor laws barriers to trade. Union-busting in sweat shops, mines and fields all around the world destroy democratic principles at their roots.

The oppressive nature of capitalism inherently creates such conditions as poverty and inopportunity. The child population is easily manipulated and often exemplifies the most desperate of the human condition. Due to the plight of the economically distressed, many children have no other choice than to work.

COLIN ROBINSON. The issue of a solution to child labor is one that is intimately intertwined with the global economy. However, the exploitation and abuse of innocent children cannot be outrightly ignored. A solution will come out of hard work and education. We must educate people about the human rights abuses, about the four-year-olds carrying twenty pounds of bricks, about the young boys and girls forced to work the streets, selling their bodies for sex. We need to create a conscious consumer, starting at a young age, a consumer who will think twice before buying goods made by children.

Furthermore, we must appeal to lawmakers, lobbyists and corporate officers to instate rules giving children their rights. Through letters, we have a voice. The 1998 bonded labor act, written by you, Congressman Sanders, was the first step in this branch of change. Finally, the fortunate youth of the industrialized world can unite to help their distant peers. Through student organizations like ours, CLEA, Child Labor Education in Action, the youth have a voice. It gives them a pulpit from which would be heard.

The child laborers of our world need a voice. So educate yourself and speak out.

DELIA KIPP. In April of 2001, sixteen students from Child Labor Education in Action traveled to Pasac Segundo in western highlands of Guatemala. The people of the Pasac Segundo are Mayans and victims of extraordinary poverty. This is an agricultural community, and here is where the children work, in the fields surrounding their homes. This is a place where the land is rich and the people are poor.

The children of the Pasac Segundo had no way of breaking the vicious poverty cycle until two years ago, when their parents and other community members joined together to start a school. We went to Pasac Segundo to help them build a new school. Alongside adults and children of the village, we cleared the land of stone and leveled the ground. We dug foundations and constructed rebar frames to reinforce cement and bricks.

We left with unbreakable ties and eagerness to continue to support the school. We have continued to fund-raise during the past school year. We held concerts, a benefit dinner, as well as many other successful activities. In total, we have given Pasac Segundo over \$6,000. In conjunction with many area elementary and high schools, we have collected school, health supplies, and shoes for children of Pasac Segundo. We are extremely excited and proud to announce that the school in Guatemala should be finished by the end of this month. We also invite students to learn more about our building project in Guatemala and our organization by visiting table in lobby or <http://www.clea.sit.edu>.

COLIN ROBINSON. And I'd like to thank you, Congressman Sanders, for allowing us to be here.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today in the name of democracy, in the name of hope, and in the name of peace.

As long-standing supporters of Israel, we recognize and respect Israel's unquestioned right to self-defense.

The United States has a long history of promoting and supporting democracies. It has long considered Israel its closest ally in the Middle East, because Israel is a democracy.

It is because of our passion for democracy that we cast votes against the procedural steps needed to bring House Resolution 392 to the floor.

These procedural steps prevented any amendments or any substitute resolutions to be considered by the Congress. We were not permitted to consider or debate either Senator LIEBERMAN's or Congressman DEFAZIO's language.

We were not given the opportunity to meet with our constituents and hear their thoughts and concerns on this divisive and complicated matter. Nor were there any hearings on this resolution. This is wrong and does not speak to debate that is central to our democratic process.

While we support House Resolution 392 in its final form, we have concerns that this resolution presents a one-sided view of a many-sided reality.

We cannot ignore the suffering of the Palestinian people and the loss of innocent civilians.

We cannot ignore the economic hardship the Palestinians have endured as they continue their attempts to create their own Democratic nation.

And we cannot ignore the physical damage done to Palestinian infrastructure in Jenin, in Ramallah and other towns in the West Bank.

Even with the Resolution's shortcomings, we believe it is critical to speak out against acts of terrorism that have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Israeli civilians.

The United States is scarred by its own September 11 experience and we have a new and somber national consciousness of terrorism on our soil.

We continue to hold out hope that the Israelis and the Palestinians will be able to achieve the peace of the brave that has proven so elusive. We are confident that the United States will be a true partner for peace and help bring a 21st Century Marshall Plan of resources and hope to those who today carry a rage of desperation.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY SITE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution to allow nuclear waste to be deposited at Yucca Mountain. And, I commend my colleague, Rep. SHELLEY BERKLEY, for her leadership on this issue.

The nuclear power industry and its White House allies are licking their chops at the prospect that Yucca Mountain will be approved as a dump site. They will try to sell this development as proof that the issue of nuclear waste has been solved. While the industry may claim that nuclear power and its waste are safe, the fact remains that Americans don't agree. They understand that nuclear waste management will continue to be a cause for concern even if the Yucca Mountain site is approved.

Burying radioactive nuclear waste is a bad idea . . . whether in Nevada or somewhere else. Aside from exposing Nevadans to the unknown effects of having radioactive waste in their backyard, the current plan will put our entire country at risk as waste travels through communities to reach the dump site. Accidents happen in every industry, but nowhere else are the consequences so severe, and so far-reaching as in the nuclear industry. The undeniable truth is that transporting waste over road or rail in order to bury it involves great, unjustifiable risks to human health and the environment. Even worse, the risks have only increased since September 11 as no one can deny that a traveling caravan of nuclear waste would be a prime terrorist target.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.J. Res. 87.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF RICHARD REEVES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Richard Reeves. Richard has served on my hometown of Murfreesboro's City Council for 22 years, the last four years of which he served as mayor. Richard, however, has decided to retire from public service after a long and honorable career.

During his more than two decades on the City Council, Richard has helped guide the

Middle Tennessee city to prominence. Murfreesboro is home to a number of successful industries and one of the best universities in the nation, Middle Tennessee State University, my alma mater. Not only has the university flourished, but so has the city as a whole, with a population that has more than doubled in two decades. Richard can take credit for a lot of that success.

Despite his primary occupation as a successful businessman, Richard found time to serve Murfreesboro with distinction. He put in countless, and often thankless, hours helping city leaders make Murfreesboro a better place to live and work. Murfreesboro's quality of life is second to none. We have excellent schools, great parks—including the Stones River National Battlefield and Greenway—and good-paying jobs.

The people of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, could not have asked for a more dedicated public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be missed at City Hall. I cordially congratulate Richard on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN J. DIETZ OF METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John J. Dietz of the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public School System. He is leaving his position this month in order to move closer to his family in Michigan.

As Deputy Director and Executive for Business and Auxiliary Services with the school system, Dietz has guided the business and financial matters for the district since 1994.

He is widely known and respected for his honesty, good character, and his careful and conservative fiscal management, as well as his dedication to serving the community and the district's 69,000 students.

Dietz and his wife Wendy have both contributed greatly to the school district—he in administrative services, and she, as a Metro teacher. A history buff, he enjoys reading and researching the Civil War during his leisure time.

He will take a new position next month as business manager for the Rochester, Michigan public schools. Dietz is to be commended for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the citizens of the 5th Congressional District through his professionalism and integrity. May he enjoy success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING GARY POWERS, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATION TO BRINGING THE COLD WAR MUSEUM TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay trib-

ute to Mr. Gary Powers, Jr. for his work and dedication to bringing the Cold War Museum to Northern Virginia. In honor of his father, Mr. Gary Powers, Sr., Powers spent years to not only gain deserved recognition for his father, but for all who defended the United States and her allies during the Cold War.

Powers' father, Mr. Gary Powers, Sr., was a Korean War veteran who, in the 1960s, worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1960, he was shot down over the USSR while piloting a U-2 spy plane and was convicted of spying and confined to a Russian prison until exchanged for a captured Russian spy. He subsequently found employment as a helicopter pilot for television station KNBC in Los Angeles. He died on August 1, 1977 in the crash of his helicopter and was buried in Section 11 of Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1962, espionage became big news as the "U2 Incident" grabbed world headlines. Powers was shot down as he flew the U-2, designed for covert surveillance, over Soviet territory, sparking one of the biggest international crises of the Cold War. The U.S. demanded his safe return. The USSR wanted to know what he was doing up there in the first place.

Shot down on May 1, 1960, Powers was held in prison for 2 years until 1962, when he was exchanged for Soviet Col. Rudolf Abel in the most dramatic East-West spy swap ever to occur in Cold War Berlin. Powers stepped on to the eastern end of the Berlin's Glienicke Bridge spanning the River Havel on February 10, 1962. At the other end of the bridge stood Colonel Rudolf Abel, a heavily muffled Soviet master-spy, seized earlier by U.S. security agents after setting up a Red spy network in New York in the late 1950s.

At a precisely arranged signal, the two men strode on to the bridge, marching purposefully towards one another, Powers heading west, Abel east. In the middle of the bridge they passed each other silently, with barely a nod of their heads. That spy-swap operation was to be the forerunner of many such East-West prisoner exchanges to take place on the Glienicke Bridge over the next 27 years in Berlin.

Criticized when he returned to the United States for not ensuring the revolutionary plane was destroyed or killing himself with poison, Powers was cold-shouldered by his former employers at the Central Intelligence Agency and eventually died in 1977 at the age of 47 when a television news helicopter he was piloting crashed in Los Angeles.

On May 1, 2000, U.S. officials presented Powers' family with the Prisoner-of-War Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the National Defense Service Medal during a ceremony held at the Beale Air Force Base, north of Sacramento, and home to the modern U.S. U-2 force. It marked the 40th anniversary of the incident.

Powers' son, Gary Powers Jr., spent years writing letters and holding meetings with officials to ensure this very deserved recognition took place. He saw the presentation of the medals as an important step in recognizing those who served their country during the Cold War. Powers wanted to make sure that his father was honored with the medals he deserved for being a prisoner of war, while at the same time ensuring those who served along with his father were recognized as well.

Powers, Jr., has devoted much of his time to seeing his father's memory honored, and